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CON-CON REPORT

Four-Year Terms Proposed For State Elective Offices

Four year terms for four principal state elective officers are provided by the proposed new Michigan constitution which voters will be asked to pass judgment upon at the April 1, 1963, election.

The longer term constitution became effective for those elected in 1960 as governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state and attorney general. Those officers presently serve two-year terms.

In acting to increase the terms of these officials, the Constitutional Convention followed the advice of former state executives and conformed to policies which have been adopted by many U. S. state governments.

Advocates of the longer term pointed out that the present two-year incumbency provides too short a time for an administrator to become properly acquainted with his job. They felt, too, that an official's efficiency is impaired when he is obliged to campaign for re-election as often as every two years.

Terms for members of the state senate are also increased to four years by the new constitution, but members of the house of representatives continue to serve only two years.

Those elected for four-year terms in state office would be chosen in balloting in alternate even-numbered years beginning in 1966, so as not to conflict with national presidential elections.

Although the new constitution does not specifically so require, it is presumed that the legislature will continue party primaries for the nomination of candidates for governor. Candidates for lieutenant governor, secretary of state and attorney general would be nominated at party conventions.

THE NEW document provides that nominees for governor and lieutenant governor in the same manner as with the president and

vice president of the U. S. This would eliminate divisive situations in state government when the governor and lieutenant governor are from opposing political parties.

The line of succession to the governorship in the new constitution is lieutenant governor, secretary of state and attorney general. The matter of further succession, after the three elective offices, is left to legislative determination.

A clear distinction is made for the first time between temporary succession to the governorship,

State Commission OK's \$2,415,000 In School Bonds

Attorney General Frank J. Kelley, chairman of the State Municipal Finance Commission, has announced that the commission has approved \$2,415,000 of building and site bonds, Series 1963, for the school district of the City of Birmingham.

The money will be used to erect, furnish and equip a new junior high building, one new elementary school building, an additional service building, and additions to the Barnum Junior High School building and the Pembroke, Harlan, Franklin and Bloomfield Village Elementary School buildings. It will be used also for making other permanent improvements to school buildings and sites and acquiring school sites and additions to school sites in the school district, Kelley said.

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Supervisors Study Child Center Plans

The juvenile committee of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors has received preliminary architectural plans for a proposed \$2.6 million Children's Village.

Probate judges who handle juvenile cases have warned that present overcrowding and mixing of normal county wards with emotionally disturbed children is a situation needing action promptly.

Juvenile authorities have recommended that three cottages of the future village complex be constructed immediately to relieve the situation. One cottage would be used for the disturbed children.

These initial units would cost about \$515,800, according to architect Harry M. Bezges Jr.

CONSTRUCTION COSTS for all or part of the proposed village pose a problem.

Under a proposed building authority, establishment of which was to be considered by the ways and means committee at a meeting last week, building of the three cottages could begin immediately.

Establishment of the authority has been recommended by the juvenile committee. Such an authority would provide a means to raise funds through revenue bonds

such as during his absence from the state, permanent succession due to his inability to perform his duties. A method of using the supreme court to determine when such inability exists, and when it ends, is also provided for the first time.

Another new provision of the proposed document meets a long-felt need. The governor is provided with a furnished residence and receives an allowance for its maintenance. This conforms to the practice in 41 other states.

THE RENTAL FEES, estimated at about \$200,000 yearly, could be paid if voters approved a one-tenth of a mill tax which the juvenile committee recommends be put on the ballot in April, 1963. Cost to the average taxpayer would be about 60 cents additional per year. Once bonds are retired, the building probably would revert to county-ownership.

ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE already proposed would be the levying of a half-mill tax to finance the project through general obligation bonds. Ways and means committee chairman David Levinson of Birmingham has already recommended such a tax.

Juvenile committee chairman Abraham Brickner has said it would be two years before construction could begin if the money were raised by this method.

Establishment of an authority would require approval of the board of supervisors which meets today.

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